

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. For use in association with devices such as processors  
2 and modems used in wireless and wireline access systems,  
3 a backplane comprising:

4           a low tier that is capable of aggregate traffic rates of  
5 up to approximately two gigabits per second; and

6           a high tier that is capable of aggregate traffic rates of  
7 up to approximately twenty gigabits per second.